

SWINDLERS SKIN FARMER \$10,280

Easy Mark Turns Tables on Trio of Crooks in Davenport and Aids in Their Apprehension.

USE OLD PHONY RACING GAME

W. H. Kearns of Earlring, Iowa, by Clever Ruse, Succeeds in Luring Gang in Scott County Jail.

Fleeing out of over \$10,000 in a wire tapping game in Davenport before discovering he had been duped, and then recovering his senses and aiding in the capture of the men who had relieved him of the fortune, were the incidents which have made the life of W. H. Kearns, aged 55, and a wealthy farmer living near Earlring, Shelby county, Iowa, a continuous round of excitement since his first arrival in Davenport a week ago. After losing \$10,280 betting on a phony race the victim, under the pretense of being willing to risk \$20,000 more on the project under the direction of C. W. MacNaughton, sheriff of Shelby county, and O. O. Rock, special agent for the state of Iowa, laid the trap which resulted in the capture of the confidence-men.

Those Arrested.

The men who were arrested gave their names as John Brown, who appears to be about 40 years of age, J. M. Reaves, a man of about 50, and H. Ward, who claims to be 35. Reaves and Ward are said to have admitted their guilt before Ross Mowry, assistant attorney general, and Reaff Ottesen, assistant county attorney. Reaves had in his possession \$2,115 and \$200 in cash was found upon Brown, also a bogus letter of credit for \$30,000. Brown it seems, had nothing to do with the first fleeing of Kearns but entered into the plot later. Kearns declared that there were others in the plot and the police are now endeavoring to clean up what seems to be a gang of crooks as full of bravado and using similar methods as the famous Mabray gang.

Met in Omaha.

Three weeks ago Mr. Kearns was in Omaha and met an affable stranger who gave his name as J. M. Reaves. Mr. Reaves styled himself as a man of some importance and was at that time the representative of a company which was to found a settlement for Belgians. Upon finding that Kearns owned 1,400 acres of valuable Iowa land he became even more cordial. He made Kearns a visit and proposed to buy 480 acres of the land for the philanthropic enterprise. But before this deal could be consummated the president of the company which Reaves represented had to give his assent to

the proposition. To effect this Kearns was told to go to Des Moines but later, instructed to come to Davenport, which he did with the friendly stranger, arriving Tuesday. Kearns' recollection of the incidents in Davenport which released him of the modest fortune are as follows:

A Sad Story.

"Upon arriving in Davenport I was told that the president of the organization which was to buy my land was away on business in Illinois. We went in the park and my companion met a man there and they talked about a bet on a horse race in which the man had won \$3,000. After a while Reaves and another friend took me to a building which I think is located in the southeast part of the city and we went to the third floor in an elevator. They took me to a room where a large bulletin board covered one side of the wall. There was a horse race in progress, they told me, and Ward said he could pick the winner every time. And he could, too. They kept us informed as to the progress of the races with two telephones. He bet, he said, for a company which he was working for and he and his companions made \$105,000. Then I bet on a 10 to 1 proposition and won \$1,000. Again I bet 1 to 10 and lost \$10,000 in that bet. Altogether I lost \$10,280."

Paid His Checks.

Kearns paid these checks personally before leaving. After having lost his money in the bet he became suspicious but left the swindlers as the best of friends and promised to return with more money. He went back home and notified the Shelby county sheriff, C. W. MacNaughton, of all that had occurred and MacNaughton immediately wired State Agent O. O. Rock, who was in Davenport in connection with the saloon cases. Mr. Rock procured the assistance of J. E. Risdon and W. H. Terrell, other special agents who were also in Davenport. Mr. Risdon made arrangements with J. M. Carl, former chief of police of Cedar Rapids, and George Streater, also of Cedar Rapids, to follow Mr. Kearns from the depot. Kearns had been notified to make arrangements with his friend that he was coming on a train and that he would bring \$20,000 with him. But Kearns arrived earlier than expected and completed the plan to effect the capture of the get-rich-quick schemers. He was then sent in an automobile to Eldridge to catch the train he had been scheduled to arrive on. When he arrived at the depot one of the gang of confidence-men was posted and with a series of signals with his hat notified his cohorts of the arrival of the farmer.

Brown, Ward and Reaves then rushed up to the arrival and greeted him as a long lost comrade. The crooks were then arrested and turned over to Sheriff Louis Eckhardt.

It is believed that a dangerous band of swindlers has been detected. The largeness of their undertaking, the daring with which they clung to their victim, refusing to be satisfied with their first haul, and the large number which seem to have been engaged in the enterprise leads the officials who affected the capture to think that one of the most important captures of several years has been made.

Kearns and all of the officials who were connected with the episode will remain in this city awaiting prosecution of the criminals.

In the meantime Kearns declares he will not bet on any more horse races.

NAB ROCK ISLAND BOY IN BURGLARY

La Salle Authorities Arrest Leon Park of This City for Two Prowling Jobs and He Confesses.

GETS \$200 WORTH OF JEWELRY

Admits Having Quarreled With His Father and Striking Acquaintance With Companion Who is Held.

(Special to The Argus.)

La Salle, Ill., July 31.—A complete confession by Leon Park of Rock Island and Lawrence Walter of Mendota of the robberies at the Blakeslee home in Utica Wednesday afternoon and the Matthews residence in La Salle late Thursday afternoon clears up these burglaries, following the arrest of the pair in Mendota.

Following the successful escape from La Salle, after leaving two suit cases containing the stolen jewelry at the Illinois Central depot, Chief Doyle notified Marshal Beckett of Mendota to be on the lookout for two youths, one of whom it was almost sure was Walter, as the name appeared in a notebook found in the suit cases.

Mendota Police Caught Them.

It was not many hours until Beckett had a line on the pair and shortly afterwards Chief Doyle and Assistant Klunker received word that their men were in jail. The La Salle officers went to Mendota in an auto and took charge of the prisoners. They were brought back to La Salle last evening and examined by the chief.

After a little hesitation both acknowledged their participation in the Blakeslee robbery. They gained entrance by means of a skeleton key and ransacked the home while the family was away, finally escaping with over \$200 worth of jewelry. Most of this was found in one of the suit cases and identified by Mrs. Blakeslee. But several of the most prized articles were still missing, and these were found on the persons of the two men. When Mrs. Blakeslee and her husband came to La Salle to appear at the hearing they recognized all of the jewelry—two gold watches and a ring. A revolver, Walter said, was thrown in a yard at Mendota and he described just where it could be found.

Admit Matthews Burglary.

In connection with the Matthews burglary they admitted having perpetrated the job, but added that for their efforts they secured only \$30. They were unaware that they had passed up \$61 under some papers in the writing desk.

With Mr. Matthews and Mr. and Mrs. Blakeslee as witnesses, a hearing was held before Magistrate O'Byrne. Walter and Park admitted their guilt and were placed under \$300 bonds each. They were taken to the La Salle county jail at Ottawa by Officer Klunker.

According to stories told by the pair, they have been living in La Salle for five or six weeks. Park's parents lived on Eighth street in La Salle and his father was a carpenter at one of the cement plants, but when the strike was called the family returned to Rock Island. Leon quarreled with his father in Rock Island and returned to La Salle and upon his arrival here he met Walter, who ran away from his Mendota home five weeks ago. They claimed they worked for a while at the Peru Nickeloid Works.

Family is Unconcerned.

According to Marshal Beckett relatives of Walter are not anxious to aid him in his present difficulties. He and Park were unconcerned over the predicament they are now in and are taking things easy in their cells. The future does not seem to concern them at all.

GRANT PATENTS TO LOCAL INVENTORS

(Special to The Argus.)

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Patents have just been issued to Edward M. Heylman, Rock Island, for an engine gang plow and to John Tedell, Moline, for a corn planter.

ON COUNTY RECORDS

Marrantry Deeds.

August Mey and wife to Benj. Snodgrass, lot 11, Water Power Co. West add., Moline, \$2,500.

Moline Trust and Savings bank to Arthur C. and Mary L. Carlson, lot 20, Elmwood add., Moline, \$1.

Text of Blacklist Protest

Washington, D. C., July 30.—The United States note to Great Britain in regard to the recent trade blacklist was delivered to the American ambassador at London on July 26, with instructions to hand it to Sir Edward Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs. The text of the note follows:

Department of State, Washington, D. C., July 26.—You are instructed to deliver to Sir Edward Grey a formal note on the subject of the enemy trading act, textually as follows:

"The announcement that his Britannic majesty's government has placed the names of certain persons, firms, and corporations in the United States upon a proscriptive 'blacklist' and has forbidden all financial or commercial dealings between them and citizens of Great Britain has been received with the most painful surprise by the people and government of the United States and seems to the government of the United States to embody a policy of arbitrary interference with neutral trade against which it is its duty to protest in the most decided terms.

Scope and Effect Curb on Trade.

The scope and effect of the policy are extraordinary. British steamship companies will not accept cargoes from the proscribed firms or persons or transport their goods to any port, and steamship lines under neutral ownership understand that if they accept freight from them they are likely to be denied coal at British ports and they have usually enjoyed and may themselves be put on the blacklist.

"Neutral bankers refuse to answer to those on the list and neutral mer-

chants decline to contract for their goods, fearing a like proscription.

"It appears that British officials regard the prohibitions of the blacklist as applicable to domestic commercial transactions in foreign countries, as well as in Great Britain and her dependencies, for Americans doing business in foreign countries have been put on notice that their dealings with blacklisted firms are regarded as subject to veto by the British government.

"By the same principle, Americans in the United States might be made subject to similar punitive action if they were found dealing with any of their own countrymen whose names had thus been listed.

Effects of Policy on Trade Obvious.

"The harsh and even disastrous effects of this policy upon the trade of the United States and upon the neutral rights upon which it will not fail to insist are obvious. Upon the list of those proscribed and, in effect, shut out from the general commerce of the world may be found American concerns which are engaged in large commercial operations as importers of foreign products and materials and as manufacturers to foreign countries and which constitute important channels through which American trade reaches the outside world.

"Their foreign affiliations may have been fostered for many years, and when once broken cannot easily or promptly be reestablished. Other concerns may be put upon the list at any time and without notice. It is understood that additions to the proscription may be made whenever on account of enemy nationality or enemy association of such persons or bodies

of persons it appears to his majesty expedient to do so."

"The possibilities of undeserved injury to American citizens from such measures, arbitrarily taken, and of serious and incalculable interruptions of American trade are without limit."

Inconsistent With Rights of Neutrals.

"It has been stated on behalf of his majesty's government that these measures were aimed only at the enemies of Great Britain and would be adopted and enforced with strict regard to the rights of neutrals and with the least possible detriment to neutral trade, but it is evident that they are inevitably and essentially inconsistent with the rights of the citizens of all the nations not involved in war.

"The government of the United States begs to remind the government of his Britannic majesty that citizens of the United States are entirely within their rights in attempting to trade with the people or the government of any of the nations now at war, subject only to well-defined international practices and understandings which the government of the United States deems the government of Great Britain to have too lightly and too frequently disregarded.

"There are well known remedies and penalties for breaches of blockade where the blockade is real and in fact effective, for trade in contraband, for every unneutral act by whomsoever attempted.

Cannot Agree to Blacklist.

"The government of the United States cannot consent to see those remedies and penalties altered or extended at the will of a single power or group of powers to the injury of its own citizens or in derogation of its own rights.

"Conspicuous among the principles which the civilized nations of the world have accepted for the safeguarding of the rights of neutrals is the just and honorable principle that neutrals

may not be condemned nor their goods confiscated except upon fair adjudication and after an opportunity to be heard in prize courts or elsewhere.

"Such safeguards the blacklist brushes aside. It condemns without hearing, without notices, and in advance. It is manifestly out of the question that the government of the United States should acquiesce in such methods or applications of punishment to its citizens.

Inconsistent With True Justice.

"Whatever may be said with regard to the legality, in the view of international obligation of the act of parliament upon which the practice of the blacklist is now employed by his majesty's government is understood to be based, the government of the United States is constrained to regard that practice as inconsistent with that true justice, sincere amity, and impartial fairness which should characterize the dealings of friendly governments with one another.

"The spirit of reciprocal trade between the United States and Great Britain, the privileges long accorded to the nations of each to come and go with their ships and cargoes, to use each other's shipping and to be served each by the other's merchants, is very seriously impaired by arbitrary and sweeping practices such as this.

Cites Grave Results From Blacklist.

"There is no purpose or inclination on the part of the government of the United States to shield American citizens or business houses in any way from the legitimate consequences of unneutral acts or practices; it is quite willing that they should suffer the appropriate penalties which international law and the usage of nations have sanctioned, but his Britannic majesty's government cannot expect the government of the United States to consent to see its citizens put on an ex parte blacklist without calling the attention

of his majesty's government, in the gravest terms, to the many serious consequences to neutral right and neutral relations which such an act must necessarily involve.

"It hopes and believes that his majesty's government, in its natural absorption in a single pressing object of policy, has acted without a full realization of the many undesired and undesirable results that might ensue."

"POLK."

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